



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CALAMAGROSTIS TWEEDYI **CASCADE REEDGRASS**

Cascade Reedgrass is a glabrous perennial arising from a short rhizome with flowering stems that are 40-150 cm tall. The blades of the stem leaves are flat, 5-13 mm wide, and up to about 12 cm long; leaves from short vegetative shoots have somewhat narrower and longer blades (up to 30 cm). The leaves have open sheaths and membranous ligules that are 6-15 mm long, but no auricles. Numerous spikelets are borne in a compact panicle that is 8-16 cm long and about 2 cm wide. The spikelets consist of 2 glumes that enclose a single floret. The glumes are approximately equal in size, 4.5-9 mm long, and slightly longer than the lemma. A sharply bent awn arises from around the middle of the lemma back and exceeds the glumes by about 5 mm. The callus is slightly bearded with hairs less than 1 mm long. Fruiting in July.

Distinguished from other *CALAMAGROSTIS* in Montana by the combination of having flat leaves, a long bent awn, and an only slightly bearded callus. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.